

Insanity

R E P O R T

OF THE

Board of State Commissioners of Public Charities

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK,

RELATING TO THE INSANE AND THE CAPACITY AND COST OF
THE SEVERAL STATE INSANE ASYLUMS.

TRANSMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE MARCH 9, 1871.

ALBANY:
THE ARGUS COMPANY, PRINTERS.
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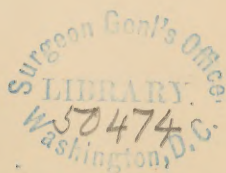
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STATE OF NEW YORK.

No. 51.

IN SENATE,

March 9, 1871.

REPORT

OF THE BOARD OF STATE COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC CHARITIES, IN ANSWER TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE OF FEBRUARY 14TH, 1871, RELATING TO THE INSANE AND THE CAPACITY AND COST OF THE SEVERAL STATE INSANE ASYLUMS.

STATE OF NEW YORK :

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC CHARITIES, }
ALBANY, *March 9th*, 1871. }

To the Honorable the Senate :

The Board of State Commissioners of Public Charities have received a copy of a resolution of the Senate, in the words following :

“STATE OF NEW YORK, }
“IN SENATE, ALBANY, *February 14th*, 1871. }

“ *Resolved*, That the Board of State Commissioners of Public Charities be requested to communicate to the Senate, at as early

a day as practicable, the number of insane persons in custody in the various public institutions of the State, the cost of the buildings now in use for each of the State Insane Asylums, and the number of patients which each is able to properly accommodate; also the estimated cost of the State buildings for insane asylums now in process of erection, or for which appropriations have been made, and the number of persons each of these will accommodate when completed according to the several plans which have been adopted.

“By order.

“HIRAM CALKINS,

“*Clerk.*”

In answer to which they respectfully

REPORT:

The returns on file in this office show that there were four thousand four hundred and eighty-four (4,484) insane persons in the several public institutions of the State, including the incorporated asylums receiving State aid, at the close of their respective statistical years in 1870.

The following is a list of these institutions, and the number of insane in each, at the date named:

New York State Lunatic Asylum, at Utica.....	Nov. 30,	643
Willard Asylum for the Insane, at Ovid.....	Nov. 30,	282
New York City Lunatic Asylum, New York city.....	Nov. 30,	1,365
Kings County Lunatic Asylum, Flatbush.....	July 31,	602
Monroe County Lunatic Asylum, Rochester.....	Sept. 30,	88
Marshall Infirmary, Troy.....	Sept. 30,	109
Providence Lunatic Asylum, Buffalo.....	Sept. 30,	39
County poor-houses.....	Nov. 30,	1,326
City asylums, other than in New York and Kings counties.....	Nov. 30,	30
Total.....		<u>4,484</u>

The trustees of the Willard Asylum at Ovid report that there were four hundred and twenty-five (425) insane persons in that institution January 1, 1871; but, as the increase since its annual

returns, November 30, 1870, was due wholly to transfers from the county poor-houses and the State Asylum at Utica, subsequent to that date, it does not effect the above total.

There are several private asylums in the State, for the care and treatment of the insane. Provision is made for insane convicts in the asylum connected with State prison at Auburn ; and it is believed that lunatics are occasionally confined in county jails. The powers of the board do not extend to any of these institutions ; therefore, no statement as to the number, or condition, of such persons, can be furnished.

The following are the State asylums for the insane, referred to in the resolution of the Senate :

The New York State Lunatic Asylum, at Utica.

The Willard Asylum for the Insane, at Ovid.

The Hudson River State Hospital for the Insane, at Poughkeepsie.

The Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane, at Buffalo.

The State Homœopathic Asylum for the Insane, at Middletown.

A brief description of the plans and buildings of these several asylums, with statements and estimates as to their capacity and cost, herewith follows :

THE NEW YORK STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM, AT UTICA.

This asylum, the only State institution for the insane fully completed, was organized by the Legislature in 1842, and opened for patients in 1843.

The buildings consist of a central edifice, two front and two rear wings, a cross wing, additional wings, and out-buildings. The front and centre are constructed of stone, and the other portions mainly of brick. The central building is four stories in height above the basement, and one hundred and twenty by seventy-six feet on the ground. The front wings are three stories high, and each has an area of two hundred and fifteen

by thirty-five feet. The rear wings are of the same height, two hundred and fifty feet each in length and thirty feet in width. The cross-wing is two stories high, twenty-five feet wide and three hundred and fifty feet long. One of the additional wings is two, and the others are one story in height. The former has an area of eighty-five by twenty-five feet, and the latter one hundred and sixty-three by thirty-four feet. The entire edifice presents a front of five hundred and fifty, and the flanks a depth of two hundred and fifty feet. It is heated by steam, lighted by gas, and ventilated in the most approved manner.

The out-buildings are a mortuary, bakery, coal house, work shops, boiler and engine house, containing also the fans for ventilation, and drying and ironing rooms; wash house, farm buildings, carriage house, barns, ice house, etc., etc.

The asylum as first erected, and until 1852, had room for only four hundred and fifty (450) patients. Since that date the original buildings have been remodeled, the additional wings erected and the cross-wing adapted to the insane; by which the institution has been made to accommodate six hundred (600) patients. It also furnishes apartments for the resident officers and necessary attendants and employes.

The following statement, furnished by the board of managers, exhibits the several State appropriations made in behalf of the institution for the erection of the buildings, etc., during the periods named :

From its organization to 1852 :

For the centre building, front and rear wings, cross-wing, barns and outbuildings, gas and water-works, heating apparatus, etc., etc.....	\$398,100 00
For furniture, stock, books, medicines, etc., advanced at the commencement.....	24,000 00

From 1852 to 1871 :

For the additional wings, mortuary, bakery, coal house, work shops, boiler and engine house, bake house, farm building, carriage house, barns, ice house, remodeling the original buildings, introducing steam heating apparatus, etc., etc..	238,965 58
Total	<u>\$661,065 58</u>

The expenses for ordinary repairs to the buildings have been defrayed largely from the current receipts of the institution. Moderate appropriations from the State treasury, however, have been occasionally made for these purposes.

The farm connected with this asylum contains two hundred and fifty (250) acres. Most of this is under cultivation, and is said to be highly productive. The garden contains twenty (20) acres, yielding a supply of vegetables sufficient at all times for the needs of this institution.

The buildings and grounds are in good condition, and the institution is furnished with all the means and appliances necessary to carry out its objects and aims.

THE WILLARD ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, AT OVID.

This institution, designed for the chronic pauper insane, heretofore provided for in the county poor-houses, and for those who may be hereafter discharged from the State asylum at Utica, as incurable, was established by an act of the Legislature, passed April 5th, 1865. The site, known as the "State Agricultural Farm," contains four hundred and seventy-five (475) acres, near

the village of Ovid, on the east shore of Seneca lake. The erection of the building was commenced in the spring of 1866, and it was so far advanced as to be opened for patients in October, 1869.

The main asylum building is situated near the lake. The plan of this edifice comprises a central building for the superintendent's residence and offices, and a north and a south wing, with extensions from the extremities of these to the rear, for patients. It is a plain, substantial three story brick structure, well planned and arranged, and furnished with the appliances and conveniences requisite for its purposes.

The centre building and wings are completed and occupied. The extension to the south wing is erected, inclosed, and partly plastered, and, by the statement of the trustees, is under contract to be finished by the first of May next. The boiler and engine house, general kitchen and gas house, situated at the rear of the central edifice, are built, and the sewerage and water supply are adequate for the present demands.

In addition to the main asylum, there is the "Agricultural College building," on the premises when acquired by the State, and now known as the "Branch." This building, situated about one mile from the main edifice, was remodeled and fitted up the past year, and occupied by female patients in November last. It is a plain, substantial brick structure, in good preservation, and appears to be well adapted for the purposes to which it is applied. The trustees estimate it to be worth \$150,000.

The expenditures for the buildings now in use for the insane, according to the statement of these officers, have been as follows :

For the centre building and wings, boiler and engine house, general kitchen, gas house, barns, sewerage, reservoirs, etc., etc.....	\$393,162 95
For modification of the college building to adapt it to the care of the insane	24,395 14
For furniture for the main asylum and branch, farm stock, implements, etc., etc.....	29,440 35
Total.....	<u>\$446,998 44</u>

These buildings furnish accommodations, in the main asylum, for two hundred and fifty (250) patients; in the "branch," two hundred (200); total, four hundred and fifty (450).

The expenditures for the extension to the south wing have been met from the appropriation of last year (chapter 492, Laws of 1870), and it is estimated by the trustees that this will be adequate for its completion. They propose to make a similar extension to the north wing during the coming summer, which will complete the main asylum, in accordance with the plans adopted. They also propose to erect a detached group of substantial, less expensive buildings for two hundred (200) quiet male patients, corresponding to the "branch," and ask the Legislature for an appropriation for these purposes.

The cost of the buildings now in use for the insane, and the trustees estimated cost for the completion of those in process of erection, and proposed, is shown by the following statement :

Cost of the main asylum and branch in use, including furniture, outbuildings, etc., etc. (as stated above)	\$446,998 44
For the completion of the south wing, including the amount already expended (estimated).....	81,728 67
For the extension to the north wing, erecting a single group of detached buildings, furniture, fences, further water supply, etc., etc. (estimated)	200,000 00
Total.....	<u>\$728,727 11</u>

The completion of the buildings, as proposed, will give accommodations for the insane, as follows : In the main asylum, five hundred (500) ; the "branch," two hundred (200) ; single group of cottages, two hundred (200) ; total, nine hundred (900) patients.

The trustees of this asylum express the opinion that its capacity may be very properly extended by the erection of additional groups of detached buildings, similar to the one proposed at different points on the farm, so as to include nearly, if not all the chronic pauper insane of the State, not suitably provided for otherwise. In the judgment of these officers this would prove economical, by lessening the cost of the buildings per capita, and utilizing the labor of the insane, and at the same time secure to them, under a single responsible direction and control, better treatment and care. This subject is one of such great public importance, not only as affecting the insane, but as to the cost of providing for their maintenance, that the board deems it proper to present it to the attention of the Legislature.

THE HUDSON RIVER STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE

Was established by the Legislature, March 16, 1867. The site previously selected by commissioners, appointed by the Governor, contains three hundred (300) acres. Its location is on the east bank of the Hudson river, two miles north of the city of Poughkeepsie.

The plan of this hospital comprises a central edifice for administrative purposes, and a north and a south wing, composed of four sections each for patients. It also includes a chapel, general kitchen, boiler and engine house, work shops, gas house, etc., etc., to be situated at the rear of the central structure.

The erection of the building was commenced in September, 1867. The three extreme sections of the south wing are nearly finished and partly furnished ; and it is stated, if funds were

provided, could be soon ready for patients. The boiler and engine house are built, and two boilers set. The foundations for the four remaining boilers, required for the entire building, are laid. The gas house is erected, and gas introduced into the building. The great chimney, containing flues for the boilers, kitchen range, bake shop, gas retorts, and central ventilating shaft, are also built. The underground air duct is made, and the main sewer laid from the building to the river. The reservoir for the full capacity of the hospital is two-thirds completed, and the arrangements for water are said to be adequate for its present purposes.

The hospital is being constructed of North river brick, with a better quality for face work. The window heads are of Ohio stone, with blue stone introduced to increase the artistic effect. The centre building and a part of two sections of each wing will be three, and the residue two stories in height. The portions of the building erected will accommodate one hundred and twenty (120) patients; and when the hospital is completed, according to the plans adopted, it will furnish room for four hundred (400).

The expenditures, as stated by the managers, have been as follows:

For the erection of three sections of the south wing (nearly finished).....	\$409,028 57
For dock, making roads, grading, draining, exercise yards, brick walls and fences, plans and engineer- ing, bridges, reservoir, water and sewage works, boiler and engine house, gas house, heating and gas apparatus, high chimney, underground air duct, temporary work shops and buildings, tem- porary water supply, power, machinery and tools, coal, hospital furnishing, and stone, brick and other materials on hand for another section of the building, etc., etc.....	232,815 48
Total	<u>\$641,844 05</u>

The medical superintendent reports, that the estimated cost of the building, when the plans were adopted, was \$666,000; but in the event of the continuance of the inflated prices for materials and labor heretofore paid it will cost, when completed according to these plans, \$1,200,000. It is stated, however, by this officer, that this estimate may be modified by the gradual decrease in prices now taking place, and the advantages to be derived from the increase of power from the boilers, in the use of the machinery, etc., but that no great reduction can be anticipated.

The institution is designed for the treatment of cases of acute insanity, and the building is being constructed with the adaptations and appointments necessary to carry out its objects.

THE BUFFALO STATE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE

Was organized under chapter 378, Laws of 1870. The site, previously selected by designated commissioners, consists of two hundred (200) acres, situated near Buffalo, and was presented by that city to the State.

The managers report that the ground plan of the building has been adopted, and that the plan of the elevation will probably be soon approved, and the work of erection commenced.

The board had expected information as to the estimated cost of the building from the managers, but it has not been received. We learn that it is to be constructed of brick, with arrangements for the treatment of cases of acute insanity, and with capacity for the accommodation of five hundred (500) patients. The general estimate of superintendents of insane asylums for the erection of plain, substantial buildings of such character, and appropriately furnishing the same, at the present prices for materials and labor, is \$1,600 per inmate. On this estimate it will cost, when completed, \$800,000.

THE STATE HOMOEOPATHIC ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, AT
MIDDLETOWN, ORANGE COUNTY,

Was established by the Legislature, April 28th, 1870.

The trustees report that a site of two hundred (200) acres has been procured, and the plan of the asylum adopted. This comprises five separate buildings, arranged in echelon, the centre for administrative purposes, and the others for patients, the whole to be connected by tramways underground. The plan includes also a chapel, gymnasium, and a house for the resident physician.

The buildings are to be constructed of cement concrete, and, it is stated, will be built plain and substantial. The centre building, and the two at the immediate right and left, will be three, and the others two stories in height. When completed, they will accommodate two hundred (200) patients.

The cost of the asylum is estimated by the trustees as follows :

For the buildings.....	\$300,000 00
For improving grounds, water supply, heating apparatus, furnishing, etc., etc.....	60,000 00
Total.....	<u><u>\$360,000 00</u></u>

The act organizing the institution appropriated \$150,000 toward the erection of the buildings, conditioned, however, that a like sum should be raised by private subscriptions and applied to this purpose before any part of it is paid. It is reported by the trustees that a considerable portion of the required amount has been thus raised, and that the erection of the buildings will be soon commenced.

The following statement shows the capacity and cost of the State asylums for the insane in use, and the estimated capacity and cost of those in process of erection, or for which appropriations have been made, when completed according to the several plans adopted, as hereinbefore referred to :

	Capacity.	Cost of the buildings.
The New York State Lunatic Asylum, at Utica	600	\$661,065 58
The Willard Asylum for the Insane, at Ovid	900	728,727 11
The Hudson River State Hospital for the Insane, at Poughkeepsie	400	1,200,000 00
The Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane, at Buffalo...	500	800,000 00
The New York State Homœopathic Asylum for the Insane, at Middleton	200	360,000 00
Total.....	2,600	\$3,749,792 69

In conclusion, the board deems it proper to submit a general view of the present number of the insane in custody, of their condition in respect to recovery, of the present provision made for them, and the requirements for the future

It will be observed that there were at the close of the past year four thousand four hundred and eighty-four (4,484) insane persons in public institutions. Of these nine hundred and twenty-five (925) were in the State asylums, and one hundred and forty-eight (148) in incorporated institutions receiving State aid. The counties of New York and Kings sustained one thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven (1,967); and there were in the county poor-houses and city and county asylums one thousand four hundred and forty-four (1,444).

There is reason to suppose that the pauper insane of the counties of New York and Kings will continue to be placed, as at present, under local control. In several other large and populous counties such as Erie, Jefferson, Monroe, Oneida and Onondaga, a desire is manifested to retain the chronic cases of this class under county management. To this course, for the present at least, no valid objection can be made. On these suppositions, the State would be relieved of the care of about two thousand five hundred (2,500) such persons. It would be necessary therefore to make suitable State provision for one thousand nine hundred and eighty-four (1,984) insane, of whom, it is supposed, not more than five hundred (500) are acute cases. On this estimate, the care of one thousand four hundred and

eighty-four (1,484) chronic insane persons would devolve upon the State.

It remains to consider the provision already existing for the care of the insane. The present and proposed State asylums, when finished, will provide accommodations for two thousand six hundred (2,600). This appears to be largely in excess of the present requirements. Moreover, considering the fact that very many of the chronic cases are undoubtedly incurable, and that such persons only need humane treatment and suitable food and shelter, it would appear that additional accommodations could be provided for them at a moderate expense.

We desire to suggest that prudence and sound economical views dictate that there should be a careful revision of the whole subject of expenditure for the erection of buildings for our State charitable institutions. While making the inspections required of us by law, we have observed a tendency to an excess of expenditure in some directions. The public buildings of the State may properly admit of architectural display, as expressing the honor and dignity of the entire commonwealth; but in these refuges of the infirm and distressed, the dependent classes in society, there seems to be no reason why any unnecessary expenditure should be allowed. Let them be neat, comfortable, and without extravagance or ornament, in perfect keeping with the condition and necessities of the classes for whom they were designed. While the people are swift to relieve every case of real distress, the expenses of a true charity should be so adjusted that they shall not assume the character of a heavy burden.

We would respectfully recommend that no new asylums for the insane be ordered without a report from this board showing the necessity of their erection, and giving estimates of the number to be provided for, and the requisite expenditure, as dictated by a true economy. We hope soon to be able to determine the pending question, whether detached buildings

for the chronic pauper insane cannot be constructed in connection with the present asylums? Should this be feasible, it would seem that the cost of construction and the expense of annual management might be largely diminished. In that case no new asylums might be needed for many years.

The statements thus submitted, it is believed, fully meet the requirements of the resolution of the Senate.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN V. L. PRUYN,

President.

THEODORE W. DWIGHT,

Vice-President.

CHARLES S. HOYT,

Secretary.

